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## APOTHECARY SERVICE CRITICIZED

The Krasmoye Selo Apothecary in Leningrad Oblast serves several small apothecary centers. For the first 4 months of the year the main apothecary store was scheduled to sell 93,000 rubles' worth of medicinal preparations while the apothecary centers were to have sold 9,000 rubles. Actually, however, the main store's cales totaled only 90,000 rucles while the smaller stores sold 16,000 rubles. A special commission appointed to study this great disparity found that it was due primarily to poor planning by the Oblast Apotheosry Administration.

The main store serves five rural medical stations in addition to the needs of the rayon center. These five rural medical stations each have apothecary centers. The natural question is "Why is it that these spothecary centers which serve a population twice as large as that served by the rayon center are scheduled to sell only one tenth of the amount of medicinal proparations sold by the rayon center?" It is true that the rayon center affiliated with a polyclinic and renders good medical service, and for this reason more people conceivably could come to the rayon center.

Unfortunately, however, the real resson is that the rayon apothecar. store is not doing anything in the matter of dispensing medicinal prepara-tions to the so-called backwoods areas.

Surgeon's assistants centers served by the Krasnoye Selo Apothecary store have turned in a remarkable record of small sales. There are five such centers. Two of them, one serving a paper factory and the other the "Shturm" Sovikor, have made no sales at all. The Finno-Tysotskiy center sold a total of 198 rubles' worth of medicines and the Vitinsk center sold a mere 104 rubles worth of medicinal preparations. The Musako-Vysotskiy surgeon's assistants center sold 340 rubles' worth of medical preparations. This is indeed a rather disappointing eituation, particularly when one considers that the activity of these surgeon's assistants centers is a norm by which the performance of public health services in any particular region can be measured.

care The investigating commission pointed out one fact which might be the cause for this lack of interest in promoting sales. The various small

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apothecary stores and centers are not actual cutlet stores but are in fact retail stores who buy from the central apothecary store at Krasnoye Selo. Decree No 76 of the Ministry of Health USSR was issued in an attempt to stop this tope of operation. Three months have passed since the proclamation of the decree, but no change is in evidence in the dealings of the Krasnoye Selo Apothecary Store.

Moreover, the Krasnoye Selo Apothecary Store is classed as an "unliquidated store." That is to say, it has on hand several thousand rubles work of heliotrope extract, apomorphine, mercin, opium with sugar, and l" which the Oblast Apothecary Administration is supposed to take back. However, no one wants to do anything about the disposal of these articles.

The Apothecary Administration intends to establish 96 new apothecary centers and to convert 257 (retail) outlet stores into apothecary centers -- V. Viktorov, Leningrad.

In Kursk the apothecary service has improved a great deal after reorganization in accordance with the recent Ministry of Health USSR decree. Ecsever, the supply service is still poor and in need of improvement. One of the most common reasons for poor supply to backwoods regions is the lack of prepared medicines as well as the shortage of proper equipment for compounding prescriptions. Moreover, there is poor liaison between manufacturer and consumer; for example, there is a glass factory in Kursk which could easily fill the requirements of the Kursk Apothecary Service. However, the factory's output is consigned to Khar'kov, and Kursk apothecaries have to rely on eastern glass factories for their glassware supplies.

The varehouses of the Apothecary Administration have a good stock of medicines on hand. However, they cannot be shipped to rural apothecary centers and other apothecaries due to the lack of means of transportation. There are two Kursk factories, one a glass factory and the other a pharmaceutical factory, which have 12 trucks in their auto pool. However, only two of them are being used. This presents a definite problem as the Kursk Apothecary Administration depends upon these two trucks to supply medicines and other items to 125 apothecaries, 220 apothecary centers, and 900 retail out) is serving various rural surgeon's assistants stations -- S. Khatskevich, Chief, Oblast Department, Main Administration for Apothecaries, Kursk.

Many of the large cities have excellent facilities for prolucing pharmaceutical goods. One of these is the Kazan' Pharmaceutical Factory which is under the jurisdiction of the GAFU (Main Administration for Apotheceries). However this great industrial giant is not loing its share. At present, only one shift is working, and many of the apothecaries do not have many of the more common medicines because of low factory output. The answer to this problem is simple. The Kazan' Factory has no interest in bringing about any improvement in the apothecary service. Many of the apothecaries are in difficult financial positions due to a low turnover of goods. Until the factories groduce more, there cannot be a greater turnover, and the present situation will continue.

Frequently, oblast apothecary warehouses and municipal apothecary warehouses are housed under the same roof. This adds to the confusion and in no way simplifies matters. Frequently, the municipal section of the warehouse is able to fill its orders before the oblast section. Whether this is accomplished legality or illegally, it adds to the ill feeling between oblast and municipal agencies. It is suggested that many of the difficulties can be exercise by putting the municipal apothecary warehouses under the jurisdiction of the oblast apothecary warehouses. Thus, the needs of the oblast would be met and the backwoods regions would get their share of medical preparations — A. Fudim, Kazan'.

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